

Lecture 21 Force-Balanced MHD Equilibria

Hawes ①

I. Review of MHD Equilibria

Momentum Eq:

$$\text{Force/Vol} = \rho \frac{\partial \underline{U}}{\partial t} + \rho \underline{U} \cdot \nabla \underline{U} = \underbrace{-\nabla p + \underline{j} \times \underline{B} - \rho \nabla \Phi_G}_{\text{Equilibrium has zero net force}} = 0$$

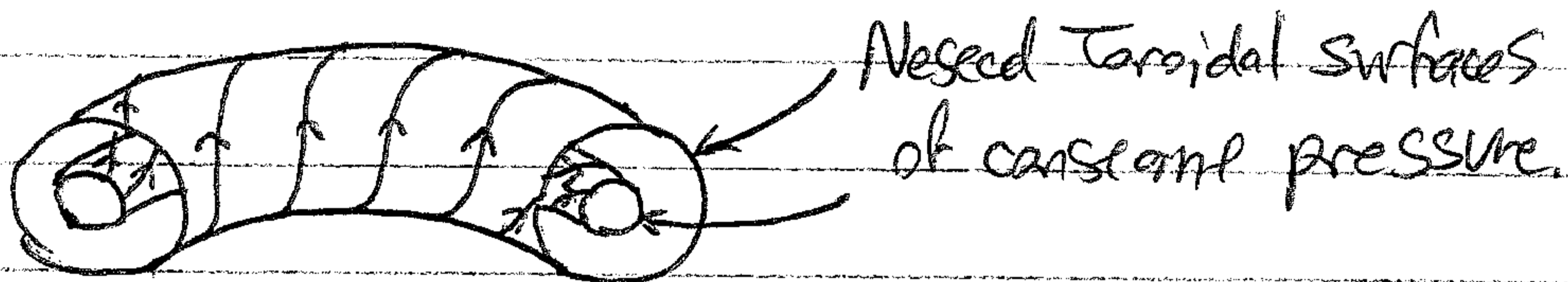
2. Neglecting gravity (generally valid for laboratory plasmas)

$$\nabla p = \underline{j} \times \underline{B} \quad \text{required for MHD Equilibrium}$$

- a. ZF $\underline{j} \times \underline{B} = 0$ ($|\nabla p| \ll |\underline{j} \times \underline{B}|$) Force-Free
- b. ZF $\underline{j} \times \underline{B} \neq 0$ Force-Balanced

3. Hopf's Theorem:

- a. A torus is simple topological surface satisfying $\nabla \cdot \underline{B} = 0$ & $\underline{B} \cdot \nabla \alpha = 0$.
Thus, to contain a hot plasma, ~~the~~ magnetic field lines lie on closed surfaces of constant pressure!



4. Force-free Equilibrium Solutions

- a. Flux Ropes
- b. Reverse Field Pinch (RFP)

II. Force-Balanced Equilibria:

A. Using Ampere's law, we may write force balance as

2. For $p=p(x)$, $\underline{B}=\underline{B}(x)$, there exist an infinite number of solutions.

\Rightarrow Let's focus on cylindrical and toroidal geometries

$$\nabla \left(p + \frac{B^2}{2\mu_0} \right) = \frac{(\underline{B} \cdot \nabla) \underline{B}}{\mu_0}$$

~~III~~

III. Force-Balanced Equilibria in Cylindrical Geometries

A. General Cases

1. We'll focus on the family of solutions with a magnetic field with no radial component and only radial dependence,

$$\underline{B} = B_\phi(r) \hat{\phi} + B_z(r) \hat{z} \quad (B_r = 0)$$

2. The radial component of the force balance (using NRL p. 6-7) gives

$$\frac{d}{dr} \left(p(r) + \frac{[B_\phi(r)]^2}{2\mu_0} + \frac{[B_z(r)]^2}{2\mu_0} \right) = - \frac{[B_\phi(r)]^2}{\mu_0 r}$$

NOTE: Magnetic tension term depends only on B_ϕ .

3. Ampere's Law $\underline{j} = \frac{1}{\mu_0} (\nabla \times \underline{B})$ gives

$$\underline{j} = -\frac{1}{\mu_0} \frac{dB_z}{dr} \hat{\phi} + \frac{1}{\mu_0 r} \frac{d}{dr} (r B_\phi) \hat{z}$$

4. ~~The~~ Force balance depends on 3-functions

$p(r)$, $B_\phi(r)$, $B_z(r)$

a. If two are given, the third is determined by force balance (solution to differential equation)

b. We still have an infinite number of possible solutions
 \Rightarrow Certain limiting cases simplify the force balance equation.

B. The Z-Pinch:

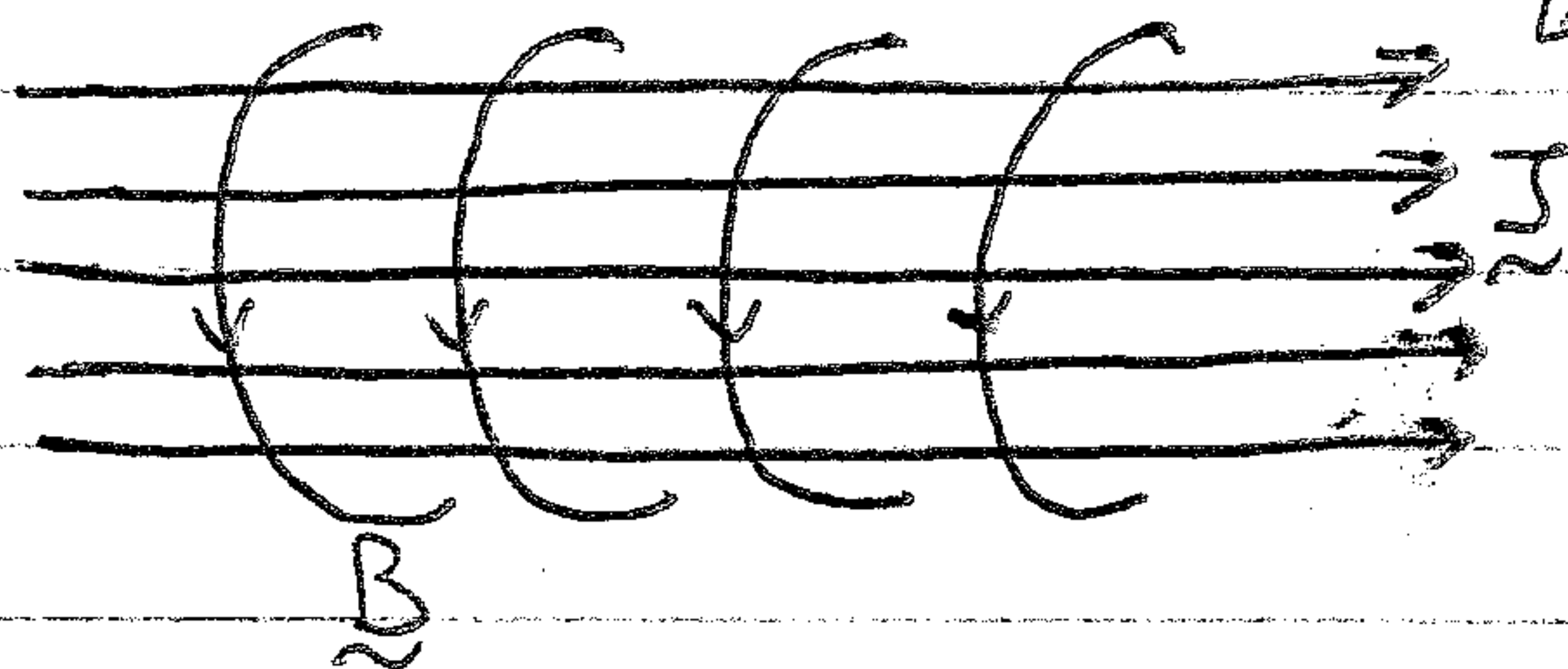
1. Here, we take $B_z = 0$. Therefore $j_\phi = 0$.

2. $\frac{d}{dr} \left(p + \frac{B_\phi^2}{2\mu_0} \right) = - \frac{B_\phi^2}{\mu_0 r}$ a. The radial pressure gradient is entirely confined by B_ϕ .

b. B_ϕ is entirely generated by an axial current j_z .

III. B_0 (Continued) The z-Pinch

3.



Strong axial current through plasma produces a confining azimuthal B -field.

4. Consider a plasma of radius a with a constant axial current density inside the plasma, $j_z = j_0$.

a. Total Current: $I_0 = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^a r dr d\phi j_0 = \pi a^2 j_0 \Rightarrow j_0 = \frac{I_0}{\pi a^2}$

b. Calculate the resulting B_ϕ from Ampere's Law:

i) $j_z = \frac{1}{\mu_0 r} \frac{d}{dr} (r B_\phi)$

ii) $\int_0^r \frac{d}{dr} (r' B_\phi) = r B_\phi = \int_0^r dr' \mu_0 r' j_z$ where $j_z = \begin{cases} \frac{I_0}{\pi a^2} & r \leq a \\ 0 & r > a \end{cases}$

$$= \begin{cases} \int_0^r \frac{\mu_0 I_0}{\pi a^2} r' dr' & r \leq a \\ \int_0^a \frac{\mu_0 I_0}{\pi a^2} r' dr' & r > a \end{cases} = \begin{cases} \frac{\mu_0 I_0 r^2}{2\pi a^2} \\ \frac{\mu_0 I_0 a^2}{2\pi a^2} \end{cases}$$

iii) Thus

$$B_\phi(r) = \begin{cases} \frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi a^2} r & r \leq a \\ \frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2\pi r} & r > a \end{cases}$$

c. Calculate the pressure $p(r)$

i) $\frac{dp}{dr} = -\frac{d}{dr} \left(\frac{B_\phi^2}{2\mu_0} \right) - \frac{B_\phi^2}{\mu_0 r} = \begin{cases} -\frac{2\mu_0 I_0^2 r}{4\pi^2 a^4} \\ 0 \end{cases}$

ii) At the edge of the plasma,

$r = a$, we take $p(a) = 0$.

Lecture #21 (Continued)

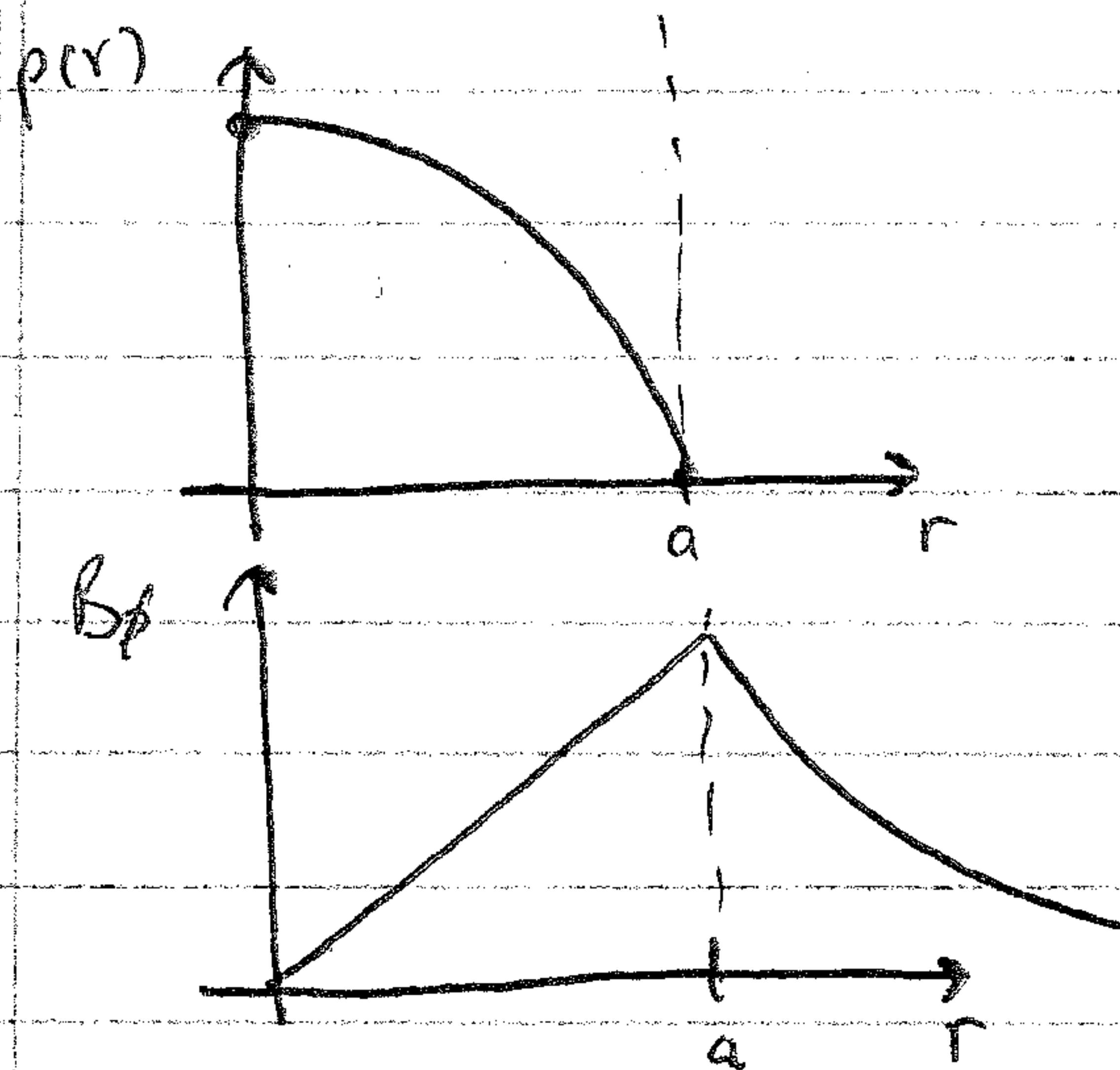
III. B. f. c. (Continued)

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iii) Thus $\int_r^a \frac{dp}{dr} r = p(a) - p(r) = \int_r^a \frac{-2\mu_0 I_0^2 r}{4\pi^2 a^4} dr = -\frac{\mu_0 I_0^2}{4\pi^2 a^2} \left(1 - \frac{r^2}{a^2}\right)$ By Boundary Conditions

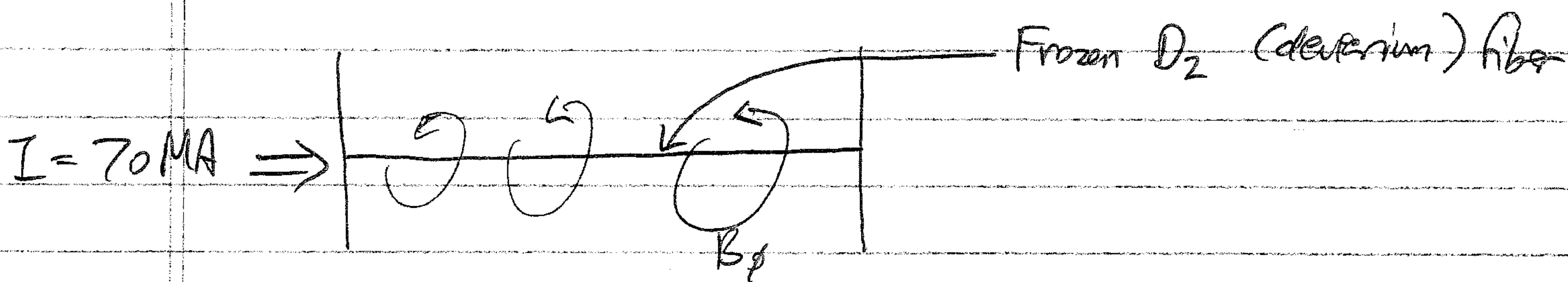
iv) Finally $p(r) = \mu_0 \left(\frac{I_0}{2\pi a}\right)^2 \left(1 - \frac{r^2}{a^2}\right)$

5. Profiles of p & B_ϕ

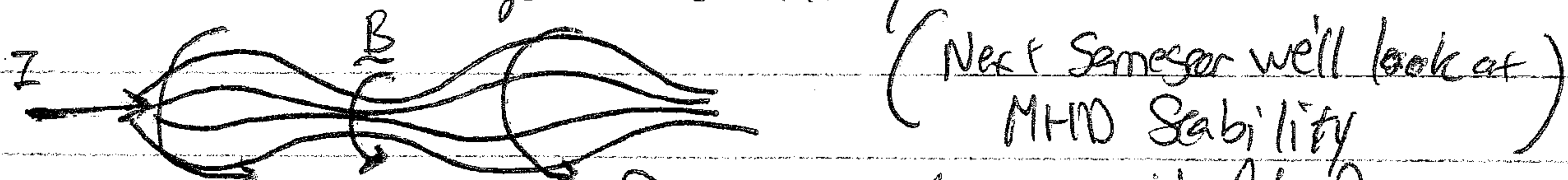


Magnetic pressure and magnetic tension confine thermal pressure.

6. The Z-Pinch at Sandia National Laboratories



- a. Enormous magnetic pressure (and tension) due to axial current confines plasma of MA deuterium in small volume
- b. Unstable to "Sausage" instability



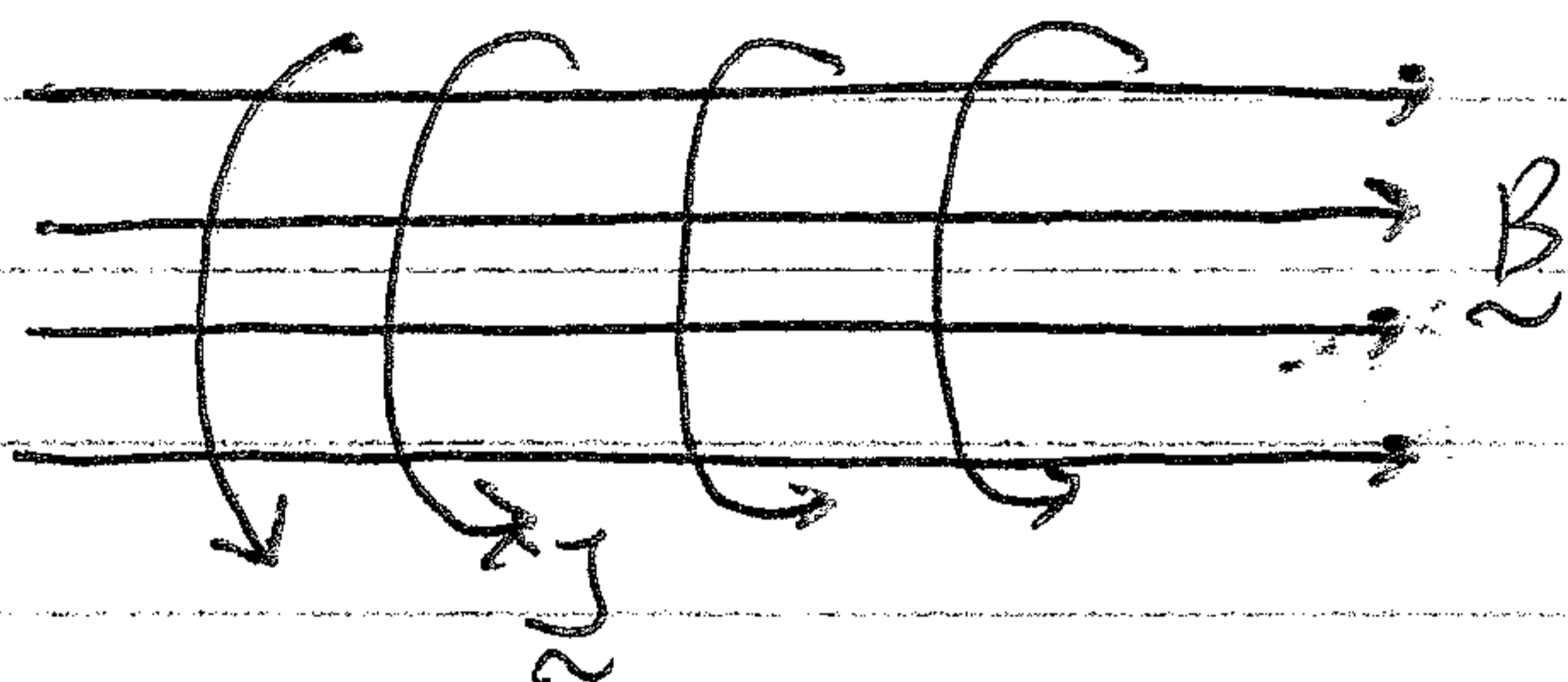
(Next semester we'll look at MHD Stability)

a. Produces copious x-rays from hot plasma. Useful for studies of high-energy-density plasmas!

II. Continued

C. The "Therac" Pinch

- In this case, we take $B_\phi = 0$ and can solve for $p(r)$ in terms of $B_z(r)$.

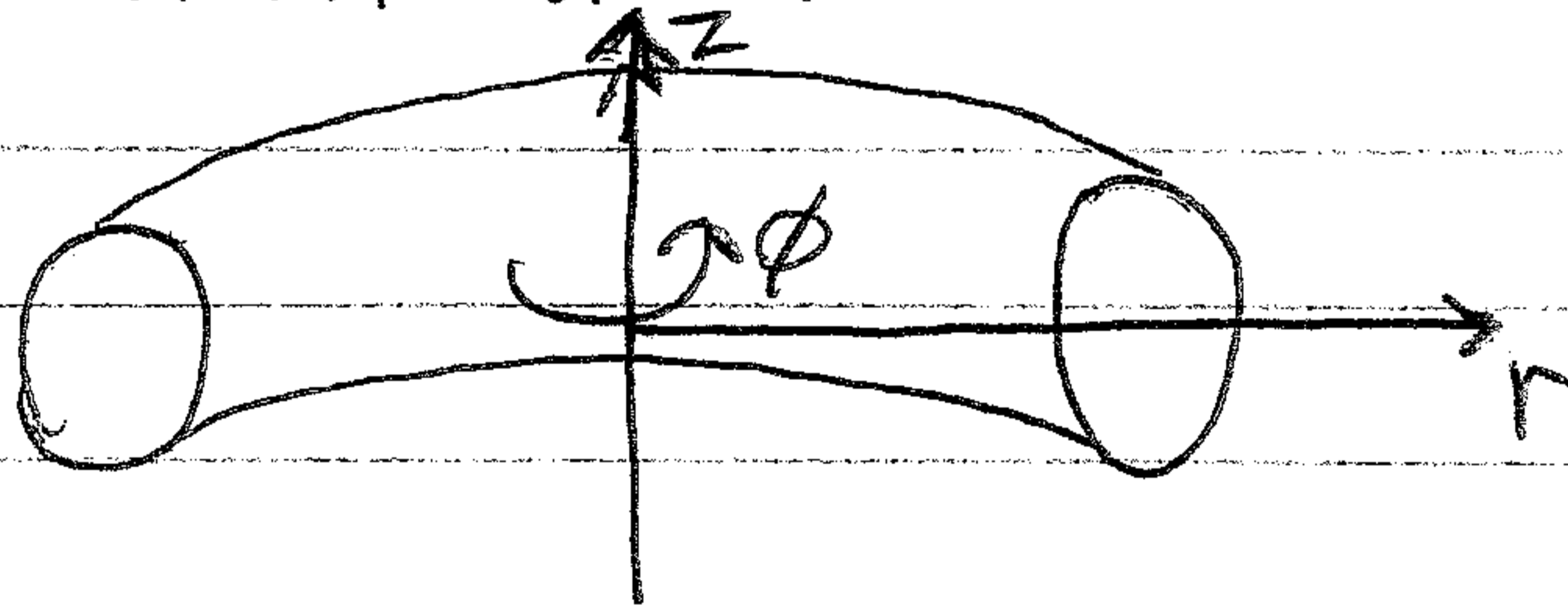


This is a homework problem!

Current in ϕ direction produces B_z that confines pressure.

III. Force-Balanced Equilibria in Toroidal Geometries

- Although the cylindrical cases give us a good intuition of Force-Balanced MHD Equilibrium, it is toroidal geometries that are necessary to have confined in 3-D (Kruskal's theorem tells us that those at least have a torus).
- We now consider toroidal geometries with symmetry in the toroidal direction ϕ .



B. Magnetic Flux Coordinates:

- For $\frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} = 0$, $\nabla \cdot \underline{B} = 0$ implies $\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r B_r) + \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial z} = 0$.
- If we use the vector potential $\underline{B} = \nabla \psi \times \underline{e}_\phi$, then $\nabla \cdot \underline{B} = 0$ is automatically satisfied.

Lecture #21 (Continued)

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III. B. (Continued)

3. The toroidal symmetry implies a simplification ($\frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} = 0$)

From NRL p. 6

$$B_r = (\nabla \times \underline{A})_r = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial \phi} - \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial z} = - \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial z}$$

$$B_z = (\nabla \times \underline{A})_z = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r A_\phi) - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \phi} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r A_\phi)$$

Both B_r & B_z depend only on A_ϕ !

4. Defining a Flux Function $\psi(r, z) = r A_\phi$, we get

$$B_r = - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z}$$

$$B_z = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r}$$

5. NOTE: For $\psi(r, z)$, $\underline{B} \cdot \nabla \psi = B_r \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r} + B_z \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z} = B_r (B_z r) + B_z (-B_r r) = 0$

a. Thus, ~~the magnetic field lines are~~ $\underline{B} \cdot \nabla \psi = 0$

Magnetic field lines must lie on surfaces of $\psi = \text{constant}$.

b. But, we also know ~~the magnetic field is~~ $\underline{B} \cdot \nabla p = 0$

From the force balance, so $p = p(\psi)$

6. Consider the ϕ -component of $\underline{j} \times \underline{B} = \nabla p$:

$$a. j_z B_r - j_r B_z = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial p}{\partial \phi} \quad \text{but} \quad \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial p(\psi)}{\partial \phi} = 0 \quad \text{since} \quad \psi = \psi(r, z).$$

NRL p. 6

$$b. \text{Ampere's law gives: } j_r = \frac{1}{\mu_0} (\nabla \times \underline{B})_r = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \left[\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial \phi} - \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial z} \right]$$

$$j_z = \frac{1}{\mu_0} (\nabla \times \underline{B})_z = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \left[\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r B_\phi) - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \phi} \right]$$

As with \underline{B} in terms of \underline{A} , \underline{j} depends only on $B_\phi(r, z)$.

c. Analogous, we define a second flux function $F = r B_\phi$ so
such that $j_z B_r - j_r B_z = 0$.

Lecture #21 (Continued)
 III. B. G. (Continued)

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d. It follows that $B_r \frac{\partial F}{\partial r} + B_z \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} = 0 \Rightarrow \underline{B} \cdot \nabla F = 0$

and so $\boxed{F = F(\psi)}$

7. Thus, we can express the toroidally symmetric magnetic field in terms of two scalar Flux Functions $\psi(r, z), F(r, z)$.

a. $\underline{B} = \left(-\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z}\right) \hat{r} + \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r}\right) \hat{z} + \left(\frac{F(\psi)}{r}\right) \hat{\phi}$

Magnetic Field expressed using Magnetic Flux Coordinates

b. This can also be expressed $\underline{B} = \frac{\nabla \psi}{r} \times \hat{\phi} + \frac{F(\psi)}{r} \hat{\phi}$

C. The Grad-Shafranov Equation:

1. Now, let's consider the r-component of the force balance.

$$j_\phi B_z - j_z B_\phi = \frac{\partial p}{\partial r}$$

(j ϕ)

2. First, use Ampere's law to calculate j_ϕ

$$\mu_0 j_\phi = (\nabla \times \underline{B})_\phi = \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial r} = -\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial z^2} - \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r} \right) \equiv -\frac{1}{r} \Delta^* \psi$$

$$B_r = -\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z}, \quad B_z = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r}$$

j z

3. Similarly

$$\mu_0 j_z = (\nabla \times \underline{B})_z = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r B_\phi) - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left(\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r} \right) = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial F}{\partial r}$$

$F = r B_\phi$

4. Thus $-\frac{1}{r} \Delta^* \psi B_z - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial F}{\partial r} B_\phi = \mu_0 \frac{\partial p}{\partial r}$

a. Again, substituting for B_z & B_ϕ gives

$$-\frac{1}{r} \Delta^* \psi \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r} \right) - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial F}{\partial r} \left(\frac{F}{r} \right) = \mu_0 \frac{\partial p}{\partial r}$$

Lecture #21 (Continued)

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III. C. (Continued)

5. NOTE: $F = F(\psi)$ and $p = p(\psi)$, so

$$\frac{\partial(F^2)}{\partial r} = \frac{d(F^2)}{d\psi} \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial r} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial p}{\partial r} = \frac{dp}{d\psi} \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial r}$$

Thus

$$-\frac{1}{r^2} \Delta^* \psi \left(\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial r} \right) - \frac{1}{2r^2} \frac{d(F^2)}{d\psi} \left(\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial r} \right) = \mu_0 \frac{dp}{d\psi} \left(\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial r} \right)$$

6. Finally, we obtain

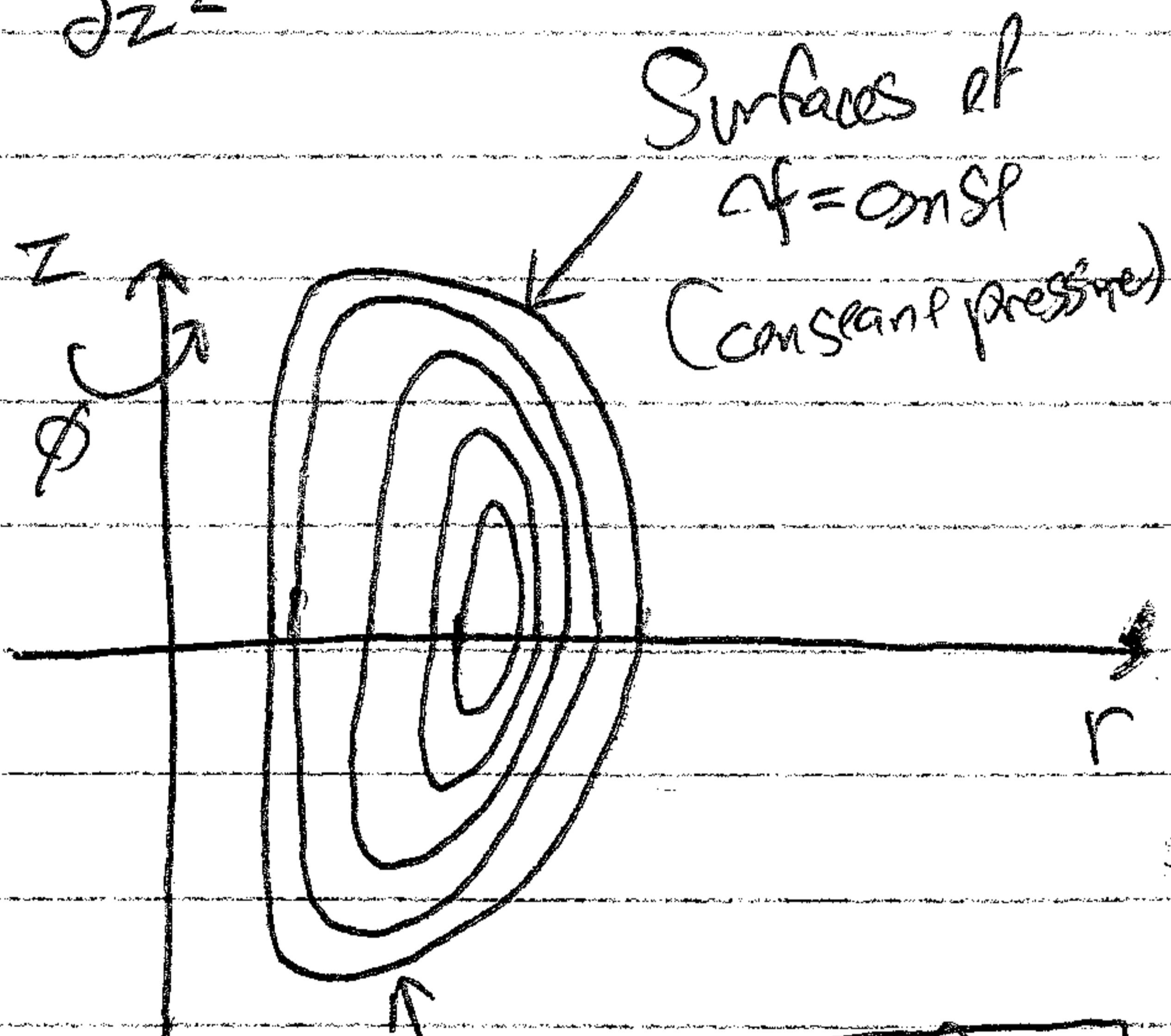
$$\Delta^* \psi = -\mu_0 r^2 \frac{dp}{d\psi} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{d(F^2)}{d\psi}$$

Grad-Shafranov Equation

where $\Delta^* \psi \equiv r \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial z^2}$

D. Application

1. Grad-Shafranov equations is used to calculate Magnetostatic Equilibria in axisymmetric toroidal systems.



2. In practice:

- a. Specify $p(\psi)$ and $F(\psi)$
 Pressure \nearrow \nwarrow Toroidal Field Function

These are magnetic flux surfaces

- b. Solve Grad-Shafranov Eq (Numerically) with specified boundary conditions for $\psi(r, z)$
 - c. Pressure profile is then determine $p = p(\psi(r, z))$
3. Exact analytical solutions, known as Solov'ev equilibria, are often used in analysis of toroidal magnetic fusion devices.